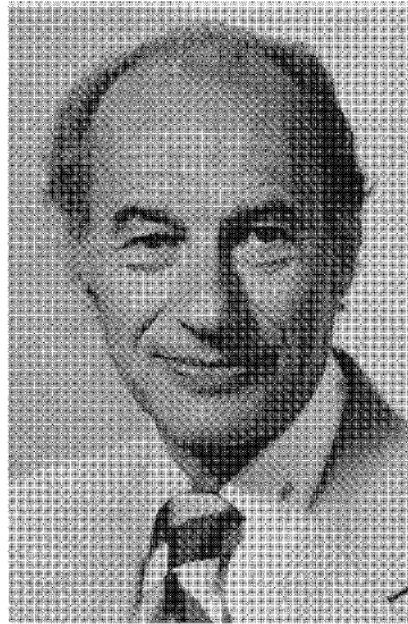


From the Oat Newsletter, volume 32, 1981:

Dr. Tibor Rajhathy
Award for Distinguished Service to Oat Improvement



Dr. Tibor Rajhathy was born in Hungary in 1920 and received his B.Sc. (1942), M.Sc. (1943) and D.Sc. (1948) degrees from the Royal Hungarian University of Technical Sciences in Budapest. Following his return from a prisoner of war camp in the U.S.S.R. in 1947, he taught genetics at the University of Agricultural Sciences in Budapest. Between 1950 and 1956 he was Head of the Genetics Department at the Agriculture Research Institute of Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In 1956, Tibor with his wife, two children and parents joined the stream of Hungarian refugees and landed in Canada on December 16. On December 19 he obtained a position of Cytogeneticist with the Cereal Crops Division, Canadian Department of Agriculture.

Tibor first worked on interspecific relationships in Hordeum species which lasted several years and involved an analysis of 55 interspecific Hordeum hybrids. He received international recognition when he was asked to discuss the cytogenetics of barley at the 1st International Barley Genetics Symposium in 1963.

Then Tibor turned his attention to the cytogenetics of Avena and described and designated the karyotypes of Avena species for the first time and checked the postulated genome homologies by studying chromosome pairing in interspecific hybrids. He discovered three distinct karyotypes in diploid Avena and found that species having different karyotypes are reproductively isolated.

He studied the effect of a desynaptic gene in Avena strigosa which permitted the establishment of a complete trisomic series in oats. He analyzed and described the phenotypes, karyotypes, meiotic behavior and rust reactions of the complete set of

primary trisomics of A. strigosa. He also analyzed the karyotype and meiotic behavior of the perennial and outbreeding A. macrostachya and obtained evidence for autotetraploidy.

Tibor was a coordinating member of the 1964 Canada Wales Wild Oat species collection trip in the Mediterranean Region and helped describe and classify many of the 2680 samples collected. This collection contained a large number of genotypes resistant to different pathogens, two diploid species A. clauda and A. ventricosa which were known only by description, and a new tetraploid species A. magna. During his career Tibor published 90 papers and 3 books. Of particular importance to oat workers is his monograph with Hugh Thomas entitled "Cytogenetics of Oats".

In 1967 he was appointed Head of the Cytogenetics Section at the Ottawa Research Station and became Director of the Station in 1978. Tibor has served on many committees and was Director and Treasurer of the Genetics Society of Canada and is Canadian Editor of the Journal of Plant Breeding (West Germany). In 1980, Tibor was made a member of the Royal Society of Canada.